

THE WANDERER

Issue 104, Season 2016/2017

£1.50



REFERENDUM SHOCK

Premiership teams voted into Football League Trophy



Also Inside

Bill Turnbull chats to The Wanderer

A look back at Martin O'Neill's greatest hits

The story behind new Wanderers book 'Small Town Dreams'



By the fans



For the fans





WWISC

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The Wanderer is written and compiled by fans of Wycombe Wanderers football club and on occasion fans of other football clubs. Our aim is to be as truthful, informative and entertaining as possible. The views expressed in the magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the committee, editor or the Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 104th issue of The Wanderer, the first of the 2016/2017 season and my first as editor.

I've always enjoyed reading The Wanderer, ever since I first joined WWISC some ten years ago and I am honoured to have been entrusted with taking over from Dale, who has done such a fantastic job over the last few years. The magazine has gone from strength to strength under his editorship and I hope I can continue his good work. I'd also like to thank him, Phil and Ian for all the help they have given me during the handover process, particularly with the technical side of things, as I'm afraid I'm one of those people that struggles to turn their computer on without someone to show them how.

Bodes well doesn't it?

The strength of this magazine has always been the high quality of the articles submitted by the small band of talented contributors and the variety of different opinions expressed within them. I would dearly love to hear **your** opinions too and would strongly encourage all our readers to consider writing something for a future issue. If you've written articles in the past and perhaps lapsed over recent seasons, we'd love to have you back. Alternatively, if you've always read the magazine and thought 'I should send something in one day' (that was me up until a few years ago) then why not set yourself the goal of making this the season that you do it? Articles can be about anything, silly or serious and can be as long or as short as you want

I'd love to see as many different views and voices as possible within these pages. How fantastic would it be to be able to present you with a big thick issue packed with different articles to give you the best possible value for your £1.50? If nothing else, it would be an effective blunt instrument to keep on your bedside table to use against burglars.

The Wanderer will only ever be as good as the articles we receive.

It's already great - together we can make it amazing.

Jonny

Chairman's Notes

To all new and old members.

Welcome to a new season. Let's hope we get off to a good one and can maintain it throughout the whole season. I am sure we will have some highs and lows – hopefully not too many of the latter! At the time of writing, Gareth looks like he is managing to put together a half-decent squad. He has his work cut out with the new rules on loan players having to sign before the end of August and nothing then till January. Good luck to him on that quest.

We at WWISC are busy getting ourselves prepared for what should be an interesting season ahead. As usual we will be running coaches to as many away games as possible. Your support in that is invaluable. The more of you that travel with us the more games we can get too and this will help us to keep the cost down.

The committee is now a couple of people short so if any of you out there are interested in joining us you would be more than welcome. We will be having our AGM on Wednesday 21st September this year at the club and if anyone would like to come along and see what we get up to you would be more than welcome.

Hopefully with the possibility of the club moving forward in a positive way on the financial front, things are looking good for Wycombe Wanderers right now. Let's hope that rubs off onto the way we perform and we can have a successful season.

Look forward to seeing you all this season.

All the best.

Ian

WWISC NEWS

WWISC AGM

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting at **8 p.m.** on **Wednesday 21st September** in **The Honours Lounge** at **Adams Park**. This is open to all WWISC members and is the best opportunity to have a say on the running of the supporters club. Bodger the rescue dog will be in attendance (see the back of this magazine) with Iain Lewis giving a presentation of the work Bodger does.

END OF SEASON AWARDS

Many thanks to all who voted in our end of season awards. **Aaron Pierre** was the WWISC members player of the season and was presented with the trophy by Ron Humphrey. **Luke O’Nien** won the Glyn Pierce memorial shield for most improved young player and was presented with the trophy by Ian Mobsby. **Michael Harriman** won the WWISC sponsored Player’s Player of the Season and was presented the trophy by James Hemmings. Please see the inside front cover for photos.

MEMBERSHIP

We have decided to keep our membership prices the same for the coming season. £10 for adults, £8 senior citizens and £5 students and under 16’s. Membership entitles you to 4 editions of The Wanderer, a discount on matchday parking, members prices on WWISC coaches, the chance to vote in our end of season awards and occasional offers throughout the season. Forms are available on our website www.wwisc.com or from our stall on Hillbottom Road on home matchdays.

COMMITTEE

Adam Tansley and Dale Jenkins are stepping down from their roles with WWISC. We would like to thank them both for their efforts over the years. Jonny King has now taken over as editor of the magazine. We do have 2 spaces on the committee should any members wish to join – please speak to a committee member before the AGM on 21st September

AWAY COACH TRAVEL

We will be running coaches to as many away games as there is demand for, so if you are planning on attending a match, please do join us. Unfortunately, coach prices have risen for this season, but if we can get more supporters travelling on the coaches, we will be able to keep prices as low as possible. You can find details on how to book towards the back of the magazine.

PARKING

We will be managing a parking area before each home game at Righton, on Hillbottom Road, between the two Origin buildings. This is very important for our finances and does require volunteers to help run it. If any WWISC members are interested in helping out, please contact a committee member. In exchange we will be offering a discount on away coach travel with us.

WWISC SPONSORED PLAYER

We are pleased to continue our sponsorship of Marcus Bean for the coming season. Members of the WWISC committee were present at the club's open training session on Monday 1st August to present Marcus with his shirt.



COMMUNITY SHARE SCHEME

Over 300 Wycombe supporters have now signed up to the Community Share Scheme, which in just under 18 months has already raised over £725,000 for the club, well over a third of the £2m total the Wycombe Wanderers Trust set out to raise over 5 years. The money raised will help finance the football club and will ensure it can remain under fan ownership, as the club's finances head towards a more stable position.

Do, please, consider investing in the scheme, either by setting up a 5-year payment plan (monthly or annually) or by donating a one-off payment of whatever you can afford. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £100,000. Anyone can invest at any level and can spread their payments over the next 5 years. All contributions, small or large, are greatly appreciated and will all go towards helping your club.

If you would like to invest, or find out more about the scheme, you can find a brochure with all the necessary information at www.wycombewandererstrust.com. Alternatively, Trust Directors will be at the Trust Table before each home game to receive your application or to answer any questions. Any questions you might have can be emailed to the Trust at shares@wycombewandererstrust.com.

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO COVERAGE

Phil Catchpole (Founder of the Wycombe Wanderers Mexican Supporters Club) is continuing his great work, reporting on Wycombe Wanderers games for BBC Three Counties and their Sports Show. After years of us feeling overlooked by BBC3C, Phil has done a fantastic job increasing the amount of coverage the club gets and the more Wycombe fans that interact with the station, the more coverage we should get.

Fans can tune in to Three Counties Sport every Saturday from 2 - 5pm. This is followed by Three Counties 5-0-5, which is your opportunity to call, text or tweet your opinions from the afternoon's game. Midweek games are also covered from 7pm.

The best frequency for listening to Three Counties in High Wycombe is 98.0FM. You can also tune in on 95.5FM, 103.8FM and 104.5FM from other areas in Beds, Bucks and Herts, as well as accessing the show on iPlayer.

Whether you've been at the game, or following from afar, get in contact with the show and send in your thoughts on Wycombe Wanderers, good or bad. The more fans who do so, the greater our share of the coverage will be.

CALL: 08459 455555

TWEET: @BBC3CR or @bluntphil

TEXT: 81333 (Put 3CR at the start of your message)

Phil also writes an excellent blog; 'Phil Catchpole – Football from the Frontline', which you can visit at www.philcatchpole.com.



ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SHARE?

Invest in the Wycombe Wanderers Trust Community Share Offer to help **YOUR** club achieve survival, stability and success for generations to come.

HELP YOUR CLUB

Visit wycombewandererstrust.com
for more details.

09 Facts About Luke O’Nien

Since he joined from Watford last summer, we’ve learned that Luke O’Nien can do close to 500 keepie-uppies with a tennis ball, can shoot a hoop from the other end of a basketball court with his weaker foot, can do over 150 keepie-uppies with a golf ball and can solve a rubix cube whilst juggling a football. But what else can he do? What else is there to know?

1. Luke O’Nien can also shoot a hole in one with a basketball from the other end of a golf course and can do 500 keepie-uppies with a rubix cube whilst solving a tennis ball.
2. Andy Murray once hit a Championship-winning ace with the tennis ball that Luke O’Nien was doing keepie-uppies with and everyone hated him for it.
3. Luke O’Nien has turned down international call-ups for England, Ireland, Singapore, Germany, Spain and Brazil, because he’s waiting to see if Hemel Hempstead ever becomes a republic.
4. If Luke O’Nien chops an onion he doesn’t cry, but if someone chops Luke O’Nien the whole world cries.
5. When Daniel Craig calls it a day, Luke O’Nien is widely tipped to be the next James Bond; 009.
6. Watford, Wealdstone and Wycombe. Luke O’Nien will only play for clubs beginning with the letter W, due to his crippling OCD, which is his only weakness.
7. There are 43 different ways of pronouncing ‘O’Nien’, none of which are correct.
8. When the emergency services are out of their depth, they dial ‘09 09 09’ and Luke O’Nien turns up and sorts it out for them.
9. Chuck Norris has ‘O’Nien’ on the back of his Wycombe shirt.



Wycombe Wanderers Ladies FC – Season Review

Wycombe Ladies goalkeeper Casey Dunford looks back at yet another highly successful season for the Chairgirls.

Having been promoted from the Thames Valley League Division One into the Southern Region League First Division Northern at the end of the 2014/2015 season, Wycombe Ladies were eager to start their new campaign with a victory against Andover New Street to settle them into the League. They did so, with a tremendous 5-3 win, despite having an unrecognisable team from the previous season. The summer saw the Blues lose four crucial players to university, however they did well to recruit eight new players to rejuvenate the squad. It was going to take manager Andrew Morten some time to figure out his best eleven due to countless injuries at the beginning of the season and these, along with the inconsistency of the starting eleven each week, were a huge factor over the next few weeks as Wycombe lost two on the trot against Chesham and Tower Hill.

Next up for the Blues were Banbury United in the League Cup, who they sailed past, comfortably winning 3-1, but not quite as comfortably as the following week where they recorded their biggest win of the season, a resounding 7-0 win against Ascot United. The Blues did enter a bad spell just before Christmas though, as they failed to win another game until the middle of December; their heaviest defeat coming against Premier League South East Division One outfit MK Dons in the Berks & Bucks Cup, which they lost 7-1.

Wycombe's first game after Christmas was a League Cup game against First Division Marlow. The score finished 2-0 to Marlow, however Wycombe had played some of their best football of the season and despite the loss gained a lot of confidence from this performance. This did seem to be a turning point, as they won their next three games against Andover, Ascot and Tower Hill, sealing their place in the Division for next season. Performances towards the end of the season showed promising signs for the Blues as they managed to become one of only two teams to score two against promoted team Southampton and they also fought to earn a point against Chesham - who also gained promotion. This shows just how far the team had come since the beginning of the season.

Due to the Blues only losing once since December, they managed to secure 5th place, a superb achievement for a newly-promoted side. The Ladies are excited for the season ahead under newly-appointed coach Edwin Yartey.

Wycombe Ladies are always looking for new players, so if you're keen to play or know someone who is, please go to www.wycombewanderers.co.uk/team/ladies for details.

GRILL BILL

VOLUME 1 (OF 1)

Earlier this year, after 15 years presenting BBC Breakfast News, Wycombe fan Bill Turnbull bade farewell to the famous red sofa for a well-deserved lie-in. After he woke up, we were able to ask him a few questions...

How did you first get into supporting Wycombe and do you remember your first game?

The first game we saw was against Brentford at home on Saturday February 3rd 2001 (thanks Gasroom!), the year of the Great Cup Run. Wanderers had drawn Wimbledon in the next round, and to get a ticket you had to attend the previous league match. It was a goalless draw, and pretty dull.

What has been the greatest moment in your time supporting the Blues?

There have been some great games, but beating Charlton away in December 2006 - they were in the top flight at the time - to reach the semi-final of the League Cup was a really special night; Jermaine Easter scoring and saluting the fans. His equaliser against Chelsea in the first leg of the semi was pretty good as well. And who could forget the FA Cup semi against Liverpool at Villa Park?

How did you come to start commentating on games for Chairboys Player?

Alan Hutchinson who used to do the commentary (remember "Oh dear. Oh Lor"?) had other things to do, so he advertised in the programme for a new commentator. I suggested that I might at least have the voice for it, if not the skill. And I think that still applies!

You're always calm and collected during live broadcasts, but have you ever got flustered meeting a favourite Wycombe player?

Not always calm! I've had the pleasure of meeting all the Wycombe greats, but it's always been a relaxed affair.

You are famous with Player listeners for your rants against poor referees. Are there any particular officials who make you groan as soon as you see their name on the back of the programme?

No, I try to forget them as soon as possible. Actually, I think I've mellowed in recent years. I don't usually rant till the second half.

Did you ever try to get the Breakfast News sports anchors to mention Wycombe in their reports?

Often. Trouble was, they liked to return the favour after we'd had a poor result.

Who is your all-time favourite Wycombe player and who do you like best out of the current squad?

Hard to make a single choice, but Brownie takes the title for me. Great player, great character, plenty of memorable moments. Hard to pick from the current squad as I wouldn't want to make anyone jealous, but you've got to love Blooms, haven't you?

And do you have an all-time Wycombe villain?

There have been players over the years who have not won my entire admiration. But as long as they're wearing the Quarters, I'll support them.

What's been your funniest moment following Wycombe?

Some of the refereeing decisions we've seen over the years have been pretty laughable.

Earlier this year you retired from BBC Breakfast News after fifteen memorable years. As part of your farewell to the show you presented part of the show from Adams Park. Was that a particular high point of your career?

It was brilliant. We actually put the sofa on the pitch while the groundsman wasn't looking, and I got to score from the penalty spot live on air. It was fairly easy without a goalie.

You recently joined Classic FM and now present the weekend mid-morning show. You must enjoy the lie-in, but will you miss seeing the Wanderers every week?

Actually, I'll see more of them now than I used to when we lived up north. I can do the show, catch a train from London and be there in time for kick-off.

Apart from football, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I try to keep bees in the summer, not very well. I listen to a lot of music. And I'm still working a lot of the time.

How do you think the Blues will get on this season?

I don't like to make predictions, as they're always wrong.

What is it about Wycombe Wanderers that makes this club so special to you?

It's a little club with a big heart. I love supporting the Chairboys, because it's like being part of a family. And, it's so familiar now when I go to Adams Park that I feel it's a bit like going home.

You will be greatly missed on the Breakfast News sofa. Where can we catch you now?

I have a programme on Classic FM from 10 till 1 on Saturdays and Sundays, when you can hear the world's greatest classical music with little bits from me in between. And a new series of Think Tank - possibly the best quiz show ever made - starts in BBC1 in a few weeks!

Our thanks to Bill for his time.



THE BIG FAT QUIZ OF THE SEASON

1. What did Steven Zubar do on the opening day to Wycombe's benefit?
2. Who knocked Wycombe out of the league cup?
3. Taylor Hunt became famous for what?
4. Wanderers drew 0-0 with Crawley at the end of August, but when was the last 0-0 draw before then?
5. Who inflicted Wycombe's first defeat of the season on them?
6. Who scored his first Wycombe goal in the 1-1 draw away to Leyton Orient with a goal originally credited to Matt Bloomfield?
7. Who made his only full league appearance for Wycombe in the 1-1 draw with Carlisle?
8. Why was the away game with Bristol Rovers re-arranged from the 10th October?
9. What was the score in the November friendly against Leeds?
10. Can you name the team Halifax beat to set up a first round tie with Wanderers?
11. The cup tie against Aston Villa was shown on which T.V. channel?
12. Which former England international gave Villa the lead in that game?
13. What did Wycombe do for the first time in an away game against Accrington in March?
14. Who made his Wycombe debut in the 1-0 win away at Plymouth?
15. What was the club's marketing tagline for the Good Friday match with Mansfield?
16. Which former Wanderer broke Matt Bloomfield's arm when the latter scored away at York?
17. Who was sent off away to Carlisle?
18. Who scored Wycombe's last goal of the season?
19. Can you name the four teams who failed to score a league goal against Wycombe?
20. Can you name the only team Wycombe failed to score against in the league last season?

Answers towards the back

A look back at 15/16 and a look forward to 16/17

So, the 2015/2016 season didn't quite live up to the exciting rollercoaster of the previous campaign, although given all the twists, turns and late dramas we enjoyed and endured between Wales and Wembley, perhaps that shouldn't come as much of a surprise.

With three games to play, we were still in with a shot of finishing seventh, but a trio of tragedy, culminating in a dismal final day capitulation to Oxford, saw us finish a disappointing thirteenth position, which really took the gloss off a decent first half of the season and ended the campaign on a decidedly sour note.

Of course, we did reach (and surpass, albeit in no great style) the points target set by Ainsworth at the start of the season and finished mid-table, which admittedly was the aim for this season in accordance with the now much maligned 'Five-Year Plan'. But does that mean we can say the season was a success? Or, 12 months on from reaching the Play-Off Final and being 20 seconds away from a place in League One, have we in fact gone backwards? And what can we expect for the coming season?

To answer the first question; My humble opinion is: Yes. And No.

I believe steady(ish) progress was made as we consolidated our position in the league. I do, to an extent, share the frustrations of fans who felt we should have kicked on more from where we finished the previous year, but with the club slowly growing ever stronger off the pitch and Ainsworth building an increasingly competitive squad, I am confident that the club is heading in the right direction. We just have to be a bit patient. Of course I want us to win promotion to League One, but after witnessing our last two immediate returns to League Two in 2010 and 2012, I also want us to build a side that can first get there and then stay there. If another season or two of going to Yeovil Town on a Tuesday night is what it's going to take to get us to that position, then so be it.

I think really we became victims of our own success, with fans expecting us to match or better the achievements of the previous campaign, despite the fact that the Wycombe side that got to Wembley was a noticeably better team than the one we had last season, particularly Scowen and the inspired loan signings of Mawson, Yennaris, Saunders and Onyedima, who along with Matt Ingram are all now playing regularly at a higher level. I'm not saying Wembley was a fluke, as that would be disrespectful to the players who got us there, but I do think it is fair to say they overachieved. Last season was, I think, a much more accurate representation of where we really are as a club.

However, there's no denying that the second half of the season was, by and large, abysmal. Just 6 wins from 23 league games in 2016 with only 13 goals scored is relegation form and we could have had a rather nervous end to the season had it not been for the buffer of the 37 points we had amassed during the first 23 league games of the season. Try telling the fans who had just witnessed the final day horror at the Kassam Stadium that the season had been a success? It was an appalling decline and I can only hope we don't carry any hangover from it into the new season, or we could struggle.

What I am extremely concerned by is the style and standard of football we saw over the last season, particularly in the second half of the campaign. The pacey, high tempo, counter-attacking football that saw us win 23 of our league games (losing just 8) and finishing joint second highest goalscorers in the division with 67 (second only by 2 goals to champions Burton) in 14/15 was nowhere to be seen as we instead resorted to dull, hoofball tactics, launching the ball up the pitch to a forward pairing with a combined age of 67 who, with no real service and limited chances, managed just 13 goals between them in 90 appearances.

The obvious answer and one that was often pointed out by the club, is that the money simply isn't there for us to bring in the kind of players that would allow us to play more expansive, attacking football. Yet we played some good stuff the season before on a similar budget and showed glimpses of that same attacking style last season on the odd occasions where we got the ball down and played. Yes, we can't go out and splash the cash like Oxford, Rovers, Plymouth and Luton did, but I would argue that the players we already have at the club, particularly the likes of Jacobson, Jombati, Harriman, Wood, O'Nien, McGinn and Hayes are all technically able players who have shown in the past they are perfectly capable of getting the ball down and playing good, passing football. Go on Youtube and look at the 'Goals of the Season' video from last season - some of the build-up play is delightful. It's no coincidence that out of those ten goals, just two are from 2016. Personally, I don't believe the problem is the players we have, but more the way they are being instructed to play. Accrington Stanley (who surely have a budget similar to, if not smaller than our own) showed last season that small teams with little money can still play good, successful football. So did we, at times. Yes, we will need to be incredibly shrewd in the transfer and loan markets to bring in the best players we can for our pennies, but as Ainsworth has repeatedly demonstrated over the last two seasons, this is a skill he most definitely possesses. I hope that 2016/2017 will see us move away from the long-ball tactics and gamesmanship. There will be times when 1-0 wins will need to be ground out and games will need to be killed off, but if we are to attract more fans through the Adams Park gates, as Ainsworth has said he wants, then it seems clear that the playing style does need to be addressed. No-one's demanding or expecting that we play like Barcelona. We just want normal football. Pass it about on the deck, try to score goals and don't resort to gamesmanship, time wasting and feigning injuries. Quite simply – it's cheating. This club is better than that. It seems every team and every set of fans in this division have a low opinion of us. I hope this season we can go some way to losing this awful reputation by playing good, honest, attacking football. Let's shut the critics and the moaners up.

To that end, I thought the decision not to offer Max Kretzschmar a new deal was a disappointing one, as I felt he was one of our most creative attacking players with great potential. Unfortunately, he just didn't seem to fit into Ainsworth's style of play and what worries me is his release is perhaps a sign that we can expect more of the same this season. Here's hoping that's not the case and the best of luck to Max at new club Woking. I truly believe he has the potential to be a very good Football League player.

One of the common complaints among Wycombe fans, particularly towards the end of the season, was the continued referral to both the pre-season points target of 61 (which having been reached was then followed by a dramatic loss of form, which saw an alarming late slide down the table) and the five-year plan, with fans questioning the club's ambition and

desire for promotion. For my part, I agree that, with hindsight, publicly announcing a points target (perhaps with the intention of taking the pressure of promotion off his player's shoulders) was a mistake by Ainsworth, but I find the claims that the club would deliberately try to avoid going up laughable. I am also prepared to be patient with the five-year plan and give it the chance to succeed. Call it an excuse if you want, but I can still remember how I felt after the home defeat to Bristol Rovers back in April 2014. I remember how I felt travelling in silence down to Torquay the following week and I remember how I felt as I danced and hugged strangers on the Plainmoor terraces. Those memories, the good and the bad are forever etched in my memory and it is something I hope I never have to go through ever again. We nearly lost this club because of the way it was run by a regime that spent money we didn't have in the pursuit of success at any cost. Never mind League One – we are bloody lucky to still have a club in League Two. Never again should we allow impatience to get the better of carefully laid plans. League One will still be there next season – let's make sure Wycombe Wanderers are still there too. Whether people like it or not, it is a fact (not an excuse as some have claimed) that we don't have much money. That will always be a problem for us under this fan ownership model, but perhaps a problem that will lessen over time as debts are paid off, the share scheme grows and the club continues to run the commercial side with the same success we have seen over the last season.

Looking forward to 2016/2017, the early signs are promising. Ainsworth obviously knew we needed goals and more attacking impetus and has brought in players who, on paper at least, should rectify that. Cowan-Hall and Weston are pacey, goal-scoring wingers and Dayle Southwell, whilst young and unproven at this level, is an exciting prospect who will hopefully form a good partnership with Hayes and should get us a few goals. Nick Freeman seemed to be the standout player in pre-season. He is pacey, versatile and seems to have a great natural instinct to go on the attack. His goalscoring record at previous club Histon is impressive, but he will need given time to make the step-up to League Two and may find first team opportunities limited to begin with. A few eyebrows were raised at the signing of Akinfenwa, mine included, but after a season where we so often looked bereft of ideas when chasing a game, with no real 'game changer' to turn to on the subs bench, he could prove himself to be a useful impact sub and having both him and Pierre in the opposition box could make us a real threat from set pieces. Elsewhere, Scott Brown is a solid, experienced goalkeeper who looks to be a great addition to the squad and whilst I know absolutely nothing about Will De Havilland, I gather he impressed in pre-season and seems to be highly rated by Sheffield Wednesday fans that have seen him play.

A lot will also depend on keeping Pierre, who as I write this is still, somehow, a Wycombe Wanderers player. Worryingly, AP is yet to sign a new contract, with his current deal set to run out at the end of this season. If we can get off to a good start in the league, hopefully he will be encouraged to put pen to paper, but if we reach January without him signing, the club may have to sell him to avoid losing him for a pittance in the summer. If he does go this season, hopefully any deal can include a loan-back clause, otherwise Ainsworth will have limited time to find a suitable replacement before the transfer window slams shut. Still, in fairness to Ainsworth, he clearly has an eye for a centre-back. Remember when we were all wondering how we were ever going to replace Mawson?

Ainsworth has, wisely, not revealed a points target, although we all know the aim for this season, according to the five-year plan, is to reach the playoffs and subsequently anything less than that could increase the mutterings among the harder-to-please sections of our support. I certainly think we have the potential to finish in the top seven, although with a squad that currently stands at just 20, a lot will depend on who Ainsworth is able to bring in on loan to bolster our squad. We appeared to run out of steam towards the end of last season and we need a squad of players who can all be relied upon to come into the first team and do the job. To that end, it's great to see that the club has further enhanced its reputation for developing young players, with Jason McCarthy, Ryan Allsop and Jerell Sellars all enjoying successful loan spells at Adams Park. This hard-earned reputation, coupled with the fantastic facility we have in the 'Life Skills' house, should stand us in very good stead when it comes to persuading Premiership and Championship sides to lend us their brightest young talent.

Overall, I think the signs look good and despite the poor end to last season, I think Ainsworth has recruited extremely well and I am once again excited for the start of the new campaign. And there are many other reasons to be optimistic for the coming season;

The club continues to grow off the pitch. The money we are set to receive from Liverpool for our cut of the Jordon Ibe sale will vastly improve our financial situation. Meanwhile, Andrew Howard and the Supporters Trust are doing a superb job to stabilise and build up the club's finances, with the share scheme creeping ever closer to the £750,000 mark. If you haven't yet invested, please do consider it.

The club has done extremely well commercially. As well as attracting numerous new sponsors, last season also saw Adams Park host a number of Under-21 games, including Premier League and International Cup fixtures, as well as being chosen for Reading Women's home games and an England Women Euro qualifier. These, along with events such as the Wycombe Half Marathon and the Impractical Jokers filming boosts not only our coffers, but also our publicity and every new person who walks through the Adams Park gates is a potential new Wycombe Wanderers fan.

The club has also greatly increased the attraction of Adams Park as a venue. The new reception area, the away fans village and the addition of a marquee for home fans should see an increase in matchday revenue and will hopefully persuade a few more fans, both home and away, to head down Hillbottom Road on a Saturday afternoon.

The club is steadily progressing, both on and off the pitch and this is thanks to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved; from the chairman and manager down to the fans who pay their money and give their support every weekend.

We are all a part of this. We are all working together to achieve the dream of seeing Wycombe Wanderers succeed and win promotion back to League One.

And that's the best thing of all: **The club is ours.**

USA 'SOCCER EXPERT' REVIEWS WYCOMBE'S SEASON

“Trying to play the moneyball system to get championship rings has proved tough for Coach Ainsworth and his Wycombe Choirboys. Back in 2015 they defied the odds to reach the Divisional Elevation Final at Wembley Soccer Stadium. Having comfortably seen off the Plymouth Pilgrims in a two-game series, they came up against the Southend Shrimpsiders. Both teams achieved a shut-out which called for overtime. Jack Jacobson’s field goal gave the Choirboys a one to zero advantage but an over-overtime equalization homer took the game to death strikes, and the Shrimpsiders were elevated.

Coach Ainsworth found things difficult in the end of season draft as MVP Al Morzone opted to trade to the Barnsley Redtykes while Nick Yenaris and Sean Saunders were unable to extend the borrow period from West London Brentford Bees. It was the soccer Christians who answered Ainsworth’s prayers with a cross-franchise borrow agreement for centralised defensive blocker James McCarthy. Also added to the roster were centralised middle-fielders Steve MacGinn and Lucky O Nine and goalshot-attacker Barry Thompson.

The Choirboys defeated the York Minstrelmen by a score of three to zero on opening day but were defeated by Foolham Cottagers in phase one of the Capital Punishment Cup.

They came close to getting their first defeat in a home tie against the London Red Daggers but Alfred Pierre headkicked a deathtime equalization goal shot from just inside the goal zone before celebrating with one of the batboys.

They reached the summit of the EFL Divisional 2 with a 1 to zero victory against Cambridge Educators in a ballgame that saw the visiting teams goalshot-denyer receive a major felony card but Barry Thompson did a real lame attempt at a 12 yard deathstrike.

The Choirboys best moment of the EFL season came in the Franchise Association Cup when they took on Major League Franchise Ass Town Villains. It was High Noon soccer at a sold out Adams Ballpark and the Villains touched down early through Michael Richards. However, a 12 yard deathstrike early in the second period from Jack Jacobson knotted the game at ones. The Villains kept a shutout in the sundowned replay and saw off the Choirboys with two second period goalshots.

The game was the last for local hero and goalshot denyer Matt Ingham, who was traded to London based franchise Queen's Power Rangers so he could declare 'It's soccer time!' at Loftus Road Ballpark.

In late January they travelled to the Plymouth Pilgrims and defeated them by a score of one. The Pilgrims were not too happy and said that Wickham's attempts at soccer were not good, accusing them of pretending they had been felonised too often. Ainsworth flipped them the bird though, and was real pleased with the performance of senior pro and goalshot-denyer coach Gary Richardson.

French right-sider Patrick Cowanhall was added to the roster and headkicked a real nice goalstrike as the Choirboys edged the London Red Daggers by 2 to 1, despite Barry Thompson being sent to the locker room real early having received a major felony card. Cowanhall became MIA after a leg injury forced him to retire for the season and the Choirboys would fail to score more than one home run in the season's final quarter.

Victory over Bristol Gasmen placed Wanderers fourth in the division as they attempted to reach an elevation position but they went zero for eight in the final groupings of road trips, despite Wanderers hall of famer and one time Bond enemy Matt Blofeld headkicking an equalization goalshot at York Minstrelmen and ending up in the ER after busting his arm up real bad.

The Choirboy Wanderers did manage to achieve a record number of shutouts for a season, but Coach Ainsworth needs to figure out some superior plays in order to address the lack of touchdowns in order for the team to reach soccer superiority."

BLAME IT ON THE WYCOMBE

The Wycombe's always winnin' which they've achieved by sinnin'
'Cos we can't seem to find a way past their back line,
We spent the day attacking, our finishing was lacking
And our supporters all began to whine;

Don't blame it on the Oxford
Don't blame it on the Rovers
Don't blame it on the Argyle
Blame it on the Wycombe

Don't blame it on the Luton
Don't blame it on the Grecians
Don't blame it on the Wombles
Blame it on the Wycombe

That nasty Wycombe bugged us, 'cos somehow they had mugged us
When we're committing fouls they don't stay on their feet,
We've seen time-wasting beat us, we've seen the lightning cheat us
So we sing this chorus every time we meet;

Don't blame it on the Cobblers
Don't blame it on the Pompey
Don't blame it on the Barnet
Blame it on the Wycombe

Don't you blame it on the Boro
Don't blame it on the Shrimpers
Don't blame it on the Cambridge
Blame it on the Wycombe

All they do, all they do
All the Wycombe do is cheat,
All they do, all they do
All the Wycombe do is cheat

All they do, all they do
All the Wycombe do is cheat,
All they do, all they do
All the Wycombe do is cheat

Cobblers!
Don't blame it on the Pompey
Don't blame it on the Barnet
Blame it on the Wycombe

Don't blame it on the Boro
Don't blame it on the Shrimpers
Don't blame it on the Cambridge
Blame it on the Wycombe

The refs too weak to rule 'em - that dirty Wycombe fool 'em
The devils gotten to them - got them in a trance,
We're full of bitter fury, so decide we're judge and jury
And pass our sentence as everybody chants;

Don't blame it on the Oxford
Don't blame it on the Rovers
Don't blame it on the Argyle
Blame it on the Wycombe

Don't you blame it on the Luton
Don't blame it on the Grecians
Don't blame it on the Wombles
Blame it on the Wycombe

Blame it on yourself
Ain't nobody's fault
But yours and yours alone
Every time.

Can't stop that Wycombe
Ain't nobody's fault
But yours yours alone
Moanin' all night long.

Blame it on yourself
Ain't nobody's fault
But yours alone

Repeat until fade
(or until you find something else to whinge about).

The Emperor's New Clothes

(Or the E.N.C. if you will)

So the 2016/2017 season will see Wycombe Wanderers playing in the newly rebranded 'EFL' (English Football League) in a marketing move that will no doubt make football a billion times better; reducing ticket prices, cutting out diving and making Robbie Savage go away.

Even typing EFL hurts. It's awful. Even if you ignore the fact it sounds like a racist gas supplier, it just seems so tacky and crude, the latest, needless 'Americanisation' of English football. At 128 years, The Football League is the oldest football competition in the world. It is, or at least was, a proud, noble institution. That should be enough - Don't mess with it. It doesn't need to be 're-imagined' or made 'more commercially viable'. Yet some people at the top of the game are seemingly determined to strip the last remaining bit of tradition and dignity from our national sport.

Twelve years ago, as Wycombe Wanderers were preparing for life back in Division Three after our first ever relegation in the Football League, we witnessed the pointless destruction of the Divisions 1-3 system to create 'The Championship', painfully shoe-horned into existence in a desperate attempt to make Nottingham Forest v Ipswich Town sound sexy and the second tier to look a bit more glamorous, like some kind of 'Premier League 2'. The rest of us were left bumping about in the derisory afterbirth of 'Leagues One and Two' like unwanted guests at a wedding - consigned to the kids table in the hope that one of the tykes will throw up on them so they have to leave early.

We thought that was the end of it, but now the ruling elite have seen fit to throw fresh insults down at English football's working class.

It's been a traumatic summer for the Football League, what with the rebranding, the introduction of Premier League development sides into the Football League Trophy, the proposals to scrap potentially lucrative FA Cup replays, the uncertainty over possible regionalisation of the bottom two divisions and the hideous idea of Premier League 'B Teams' once again rearing its butt-ugly head.

The ushering in of Under-21 teams to the FLT (now itself rebranded as the 'Checktrade Trophy' – it just gets worse!) is, as far as I and many others are concerned, utterly appalling and something that looks worryingly like a gradual attempt to clear a path for the introduction of B teams. A competition that was already more of an inconvenience to clubs like ours has now been cheapened further and made even less worthwhile from a competitive perspective, in a move that seems to be purely for the benefit of the Premiership elite.

Yes, the prize money has increased, but that's now as likely to be won by a cash-strapped League One or Two side as Donald Trump is to win a Nobel Peace Prize. "You get to play the big teams" the suits patronisingly cry, as if the only reason we support Wycombe Wanderers is because we're too poor to afford tickets to Chelsea. You don't of course, you get to play their youth sides and Liverpool, Arsenal, Spurs and both the Manchester Clubs have, embarrassingly, declined to enter the competition, meaning Norwich, Brighton, Derby, Wolves, Blackburn and Reading have been asked to inject their second tier glamour into proceedings in a hasty attempt to make up the numbers.

The FLT increasingly feels like a punishment for not being good enough to play in the top two divisions. How is it that a Premier League club can put out their entire reserve team in the FA Cup, but a struggling League Two side can be fined for not fielding enough first team players for a meaningless Tuesday night game at Crawley Town? As someone pointed out on the Gasroom recently, it's ironic that the 'big teams' can use this competition to develop their youth players 'for the good of the game', but us peasants are not allowed. In fact, the 'big teams' can field up to five overage players in their side, which surely takes the emphasis away from youth development anyway?

This is all bad enough for most clubs, but when you have a squad as small as ours, you really don't want to see your first team stars, that you are being forced to play, picking up injuries and suspensions in games against Brighton Reserves, who will apparently be free to name as strong or as weak a lineup as they wish. The group stage format adds even more games to our schedule - only for us to still probably exit the competition at the first hurdle. Worst case scenario perhaps, but this has the potential to really mess up our league season quite early on in the campaign and with no more emergency loans to cover injury crises, I am eyeing our three FLT group games with genuine trepidation, something to get over and done with as quickly and painlessly as possible.

Will all this help the national side at all? No idea, but probably not and frankly I don't really care anyway. With each blow the FA strikes against the lower leagues in the interest of it's top flight cash cow, the more I am turned against the Association, the Premiership and the pampered, underperforming 'stars' of the English national team.

I will not be attending any of our FLT games and would encourage others, from all FL clubs, to do the same. I hope that attendances for these games plummet, the scheme is recognized to be a failure and the experiment abandoned. Frankly, I wouldn't be too upset to see the whole competition scrapped altogether and the appalling gates these games attract suggests many others feel the same.

I don't care about the Premier League and I don't care about the national team. I am a Wycombe Wanderers fan and I will fight tooth and nail to see my club survive.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

By Rich Judges

Jordon Ibe's £15m move from Liverpool to Bournemouth (a record purchase by the south coast club) on the 14th of July 2016 has reportedly triggered a sell-on fee which was put in place when the starlet moved from Adams Park to Anfield in 2011. The agreed sell-on may well earn Wycombe a sum of around £2.25m; a very timely cash injection for a trust run club, with the money being invaluable to helping to stabilize the club's fortunes.

For many years, Wycombe had a strong reputation for bringing talented youth players through the ranks and into the first team. Those players have often moved on, with some reaching the highest echelons of the game, both domestically and internationally.

There is something extra special about an ex-youth team player moving on for a fee - the satisfaction the coaching staff must feel, knowing they've helped a fledgling player, as well as the financial boost which allows the club to invest in bringing through new players. Ibe's transfer in particular is one which many hope will go some way towards the club re-opening their youth setup, which was closed back in 2012.

Some ex-Wanderer youngsters that stand out in my mind are:

1. Matt Phillips (at Wycombe from 1999 – 2010)

Aylesbury-born Phillips was signed by Wycombe at the age of eight when he was spotted playing in a five-a-side tournament. Progressing through the youth ranks, Phillips' first game came against Notts County in the 2007-2008 season as an 82nd minute substitute. He would get his full bow a week later in the 2-1 home win over Bradford City, picking up the man of the match award.

Having signed his first professional contract in July 2008, he would go on to score his first goal against AFC Wimbledon in November of that year in the FA Cup. The tricky winger would go on to make a huge contribution to the Blues being promoted from League Two in the 2008-2009 season, scoring 4 goals in 40 appearances and picking up the 'Young Player of the Year' and the 'Apprentice of the Year' awards for League Two.

Phillips drew plaudits for his ability to play on either flank and continued his impressive form into the 2009-2010 season, scoring 5 goals in 40 appearances and earning himself an England Under-19 call-up. This, however, was not enough to stop Wycombe being relegated back to the fourth tier and after another fine campaign, it was increasingly obvious that scouts from higher league clubs were watching him play on a regular basis.

After 9 goals in 87 appearances, Phillips' time at Wycombe came to an end when Premiership side Blackpool paid an initial fee of £350,000 with add-ons for his services, with the move being completed on the 31st of August 2010.

2. Jordon Ibe (at Wycombe from 2007 – 2011)

Ibe moved to Wycombe's Centre of Excellence in 2007 following his release from Charlton Athletics' youth team. He learned his trade for two years before making his first team debut at just 15 years and 244 days old, on the 9th of August 2011 as a substitute in a League Cup victory over arch rivals Colchester United. Ibe's time at Wycombe was short but impressive, as he went on to become Wycombe's youngest-ever Football League player, as a substitute in a win against Hartlepool United. Two weeks later, Ibe made his first start in a league match against Sheffield Wednesday and on 29 minutes he picked up the ball in midfield and went on a jinking run through the Owls defence, before lashing home a stunning strike from just inside the penalty area to become Wycombe's youngest ever goalscorer. The ecstatic teenager ran to the main stand to hug his mother and was subsequently booked by the over-zealous referee for his celebrations.

Wycombe went on to lose the game 2-1, but Ibe's exploits for the Chairboys had not gone unnoticed - rumours linking him to Manchester City, Manchester United and Liverpool started to surface and there were reports of an offer from Fulham being turned down. After just 11 appearances for Wycombe, Liverpool eventually agreed to sign him for a reported initial fee of £600,000, with the deal being confirmed on the 20th of December 2011.

Ibe's transfer would pay huge dividends for Wycombe when he moved on to Bournemouth in July 2016, Cherries manager Eddie Howe breaking the club's transfer record to bring the England Under-21 international to Dean Court. The fee of £15m is worth a reported £2.25m for the Blues, a sizable payday which the club must be glad to see.

3. Roger Johnson (at Wycombe from 1998 – 2006)

The imposing centre-back first joined Wycombe's youth team as a 15 year-old back in 1998, after spells with Portsmouth and Bournemouth's youth-setups. He went on to become the then youngest players to ever appear for the club in the Football League when he came on against Cambridge United in the last game of the 1999/00 season.

His breakthrough came in the 2001-2002 season, making 9 appearances and scoring once and the following season saw him become a regular in the Wycombe side, making 35 appearances. The following season saw Johnson struggle to hold down a first team place under Tony Adams as the Blues were relegated from Divisions Two, but he was still awarded the 'Supporters Player of the Year Award'. Patience paid off for him and he would get the first team football he craved when John Gorman became manager in November 2004, making 48 appearances and scoring 7 goals. On top of this, Gorman named him Wycombe captain and he would only just miss out on a 'Player of the Year award' to prolific striker Nathan Tyson. He enjoyed similar success the following season, making 53 appearances and scoring an impressive 8 goals, as Wycombe made the League Two Play-offs.

A stalwart for the club, he racked up a total of 183 appearances, scoring a remarkable 22 goals, before a £275,000 move to Cardiff City in July of 2006.

4. Matt Ingram (at Wycombe from 2010 – 2016)

High Wycombe-born Ingram started out in the Wanderers Centre of Excellence before moving on to the Youth Team. His first taste of first team action came whilst he was still a first-year scholar, when he was named as a substitute in a League Two match against Shrewsbury Town in September 2010. Ingram cut his teeth with loan spells at Hayes & Yeading United and Oxford City and when Wycombe's loanee keeper Jordan Archer was recalled by parent club Tottenham Hotspur, Ingram stepped in and made his first team debut against Accrington Stanley on the 29th March 2013, aged just 19.

He took his chance and kept his place for the remainder of the season, firmly establishing himself as the club's first choice keeper for the 2013-14 campaign. Ever present that season, Ingram grew into his role and put in a string of impressive performances and despite the Chairboys struggling at the wrong end of the table, the young keeper was instrumental in ensuring the Wanderers avoided the drop, earning the 'Supporters Player of the Year' award for his efforts.

Despite being hotly linked with West Ham and West Brom in the summer, he delighted Chairboys fans when he went on to sign a new deal with the Blues, which would keep him at Adams Park until June 2017. Gareth Ainsworth's faith in him was repaid as Ingram continued his impressive form into the 2014-15 season; going on to notch his 100th consecutive Football League appearance in the final game away at Northampton Town, only to suffer a cruel injury which ended his ever present season and meant he missed out on Wycombe's subsequent play-off games.

His fine performances in the 2015-16 season ensured speculation of a move continued. He was ruled out of the FA Cup 3rd Round game against Aston Villa after a late red card against Morecambe, but a 1-1 draw against the Premier League side enabled him to finally play in a 'big game' in the replay at Villa Park.

That proved to be his last game for the Wanderers and after 140 appearances for the club he supported as a boy, Ingram finally made the step up when QPR signed the 22 year-old for an undisclosed fee on 22nd January 2016.

5. Anthony Stewart (at Wycombe 2011 – 2014 and 2015 – present)

The composed centre-back signed his first professional contract at Wycombe in May 2011 and went on to make his first-team debut against Preston North End on the 14th of January 2012. The following season he made 22 appearances, scoring once and was reportedly being closely monitored by a host of League One sides. 2013-2014 saw him make 39 appearances, scoring 4 times as the Blues narrowly avoided relegation to the Conference.

With his contract due to run out in June 2014 rumours of his departure were growing. Gareth Ainsworth offered him a new deal at the end of the season, but Stewart stalled on signing it. He went on trial with Crawley Town in pre-season, but a move never materialised and by the end of September 2014 he was still seeking a club.

Eventually, a three-month loan was agreed with Crewe Alexandra in November 2014 and on 6th January 2015 it was officially confirmed that he'd signed a permanent deal with the League One side. With Wycombe still holding his playing registration (due to him being under 23 years old) the Blues received a compensatory fee for the player.

Stewart's time up north was short-lived, lasting just one season and 10 appearances. After being released in the summer he returned to sign for the Blues once again on the 26th of June 2015. Taking up where he'd left off by forming a formidable centre-back pairing with Aaron Pierre, he has to date made a total of 96 appearances, scoring 6 times.

Wycombe Wanderers Legends v Penn and Tylers Green

In July, a Wycombe Wanderers Legends side took on a Penn and Tylers Green XI in a friendly to commemorate the opening of the new pitch at Penn's French School Meadows ground.

John Hurst, who is one of our regulars on the coach was running the line. It was a little worrying when we asked him who a certain player was and John replied; "I'm not sure, I haven't got my glasses on"! This was obviously met with some amusement and the linesman was promptly verbally abused for the rest of the game, although we're sure John thoroughly enjoyed the game as did all that went along.

Despite the home side taking a 2-0 lead, the Wycombe Legends hit back through Keith Scott, Steve Thompson and Mo Harkin to run out 3-2 winners. The stand out player for the Blues was winger Steve Guppy, sparking hopeful talk of him being signed up again. A great day was had by all, even if some of us couldn't tell the difference between Scotty and his son!



The Numbers of The Beast

Not wanting to pass up a good pun, Jeremy Spolander looks at the stats behind our huge signing.

1 Guinness World Record held: 'Strongest Player in the FIFA Videogame Series'. Akinfenwa set the record after accruing the highest average strength rating of 97.6 in FIFA 12 (97), FIFA 13 (99), FIFA 14 (97) FIFA 15 (98) and FIFA 16 (98), with the striker also being given a 98 out of 99 strength rating in the most recent game - two more than Dynamo Moscow's Christopher Samba. For the record, in December 2015, Bayo failed with attempts to break the world records for 'Fastest time to score against a computer playing FIFA 16', 'Quickest time to assemble a Mr Potato head' and 'Tallest Lego structure completed in 30 seconds'. Seriously.

2 UEFA Cup Appearances – for FK Atlantas, Lithuania.

3 goals scored in a game for Northampton against Accrington Stanley in November 2010 – his only professional hat-trick to date.

4 times that he has scored on his debut, for Boston, Swansea and both his spells with Northampton.

5 different clubs played for in the 2003/2004 season; Barry Town, Boston United, Leyton Orient, Rushden and Diamonds and Doncaster Rovers.

13 different clubs played for to date.

18 league goals scored for Northampton in 2011/2012, his highest tally for a season.

£20 will buy you a small "Beast Mode On" cushion from his website; www.officialbmostore.co.uk.

30 months – the combined length of his two spells at Northampton, his longest time at any club.

32 minutes into his Wycombe career when he was sent off in the friendly at Le Havre after sticking up for Dayle Southwell and Luke O'Nien. "Pick on someone your own size Monsieur".

34 years of age. Born May 10, 1982.

98 strength rating (out of 99) on FIFA 15 – Highest rank globally.

101kg weight (16 stone).

150 anti-oxidants & other nutrients “packed in” to the coffee he sells in a joint venture with Ebbsfleet’s Kelvin Langmead. (Other coffees are available.)

153 league goals scored to date.

170 total career goals.

180kg the amount he can reportedly bench press - almost double his own body weight.

£440 the amount he raised last year for troubled former club Northampton Town, after he auctioned off the shirt he wore when he scored his hat-trick for the Cobblers against Accrington.

466 league appearances to date.

529 total appearances.

£5,000 the charity poker prize Adebayo will play for alongside Hollyoaks actress Jorgie Porter, model Melinda Messenger and four-time Superbike world champion Carl Fogarty.

£85,000 the initial fee, set by tribunal, that Swansea had to pay Torquay United for his services in 2005.

164,000 likes for Steve Gerrard’s recent Instagram post of a photo with The Beast.

186,000 followers on Twitter – 145,800 more than Wycombe Wanderers!

Jeremy is a London based Wycombe fan, former steward and Bucks College student. This is his first piece for the Wanderer.

SMALL TOWN DREAMS: A CONVERSATION WITH JF CUMMING

There have been a few books written about Wycombe Wanderers over the years. Pete Lansley's 'Out of the Blue' is a terrific insight into the club's rise in the early 90's, charting the move from Loakes Park to the brink of the Football League, the comprehensive 'Wycombe Wanderers: The Official History' from 1996 adorns most Wanderers fans bookcases and 'Fame and The Glory' combines photos, press cuttings and more from the 2001 FA Cup run.

Yet a more personal paperback cropped up over the summer in the shape of 'Small Town Dreams', a book with no official ties with the club but a personal memoir of the aforementioned cup run with a difference. James Cumming, a lifelong Chairboy, actually missed the whole thing while pursuing his dream of travelling the world. A few years later and a drunken New Years resolution would lead to the publication of something touted as 'less Fifty Shades of Grey, more Two Shades of Blue'. We caught up with James to discover how it all came about...

Tell us a bit about the book...

It tells the story of Wycombe's glorious run to the FA Cup semi-final, through the eyes of a life-long supporter who missed the entire thing.

Growing up I had two dreams – to travel the world and to see Wycombe Wanderers reach the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Twenty years of witnessing near misses and abject failures in the FA Cup, and a painfully bumpy ride into the adult world of work set the scene for six amazing months. Triggered by an unexpected redundancy, a round the world trip beckoned and Wycombe were drawn against Harrow Borough at home in the first round... the rest is history.

It describes events both at home and abroad, through the eyes of the shell-shocked Wanderer as his childhood dreams collide in spectacular fashion.

How did the idea of writing it come about?

As the book is really an autobiographical novel (95% factual - 5% embellishment) the idea has always been in my head. I couldn't write a straight historical account of the Wanderers - there are many brighter, better informed true-blues than me and just writing a 'what I did on my holiday' memoir would interest nobody, but I felt that the combination of the two separate stories intertwined, could provide a good central theme for a book.

How long did it take to write?

Two and a half years in total... eighteen months of writing, then twelve months to make it presentable.

What did you enjoy most about writing it?

Pretty much everything. I'm not an avid reader and I'd never tried writing before, but from day one I just loved it... losing hours as I became completely immersed in words and memories. Day one was January 1st 2014... by the time my hangover had cleared and I'd scrawled the first few hundred words, I knew I was going to have a serious go at writing a book.

What challenges did you encounter?

Work kept getting in the way! I had to put the project on hold twice for a couple of months during my busiest periods of the year, which was really frustrating. I wanted to press pause on the world for six months and just write, but back in the real world, that wasn't an option.

How did it end up getting published?

When I excitedly typed 'The End' a year ago, I didn't realise that I'd only completed the easy bit!

I spent the next six months editing and re-editing, in what felt like a never-ending process, before sending manuscripts to a couple of literary agents. After a month or so of waiting, I finally got some feedback and encouragement, but not a deal. The waiting around was the worst part of

the entire process and the thought of having to repeat it and keep jumping through hoops really didn't appeal to me, so I decided to go it alone. With hindsight, I'm glad I made that decision, because it means I've been able to publish a book with no compromise - it's my cover and they're my words. I'm incredibly proud of the finished product.

What sort of sales are you expecting/hoping for?

Who am I kidding? I'd quite like to sell the story to Hollywood and become rich beyond my wildest dreams - helicoptering into Adams Park with my entourage every week! But, realistically, if it gets the nod of approval from Wycombe fans I will be happy and if I can reach a wider audience, even better. The early feedback I've received, both from football fans and non-believers, has been better than I could have hoped for, so I'm very happy. Above all, I hope that I've done the club that we all love justice.

Are there any plans to write further books about the Chairboys or anything else?

I have a couple of ideas, but not Wanderers related. No timelines either. Somebody needs to write about Torquay, but I'd quickly get too emotional to see my keyboard! Now that I've finally released 'Small Town Dreams' into the world, things seem busier than ever as I try to work out how to make it known to as many people as possible. I honestly think the book's appeal goes beyond just Wanderers fans and those unfortunate enough to get bombarded by my limited social media skills!

'Small Town Dreams' by JF Cumming is available from Amazon in both paperback and Kindle edition.

Paperback (£12.99) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Small-Town-Dreams-travel-football/dp/1532718756>

Kindle (£4.99) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Small-Town-Dreams-travel-football-ebook/dp/B01HW049VG>

Search 'Small Town Dreams' or 'JF Cumming' on www.Amazon.co.uk

SMALL TOWN DREAMS by J F Cumming

Jeremy Spolander reviews Wycombe's very own 'Fever Pitch'

What an absolute joy to read. Ok, this may not be the most independent review you've ever read, this new arrival on the sports bookshelves is right down my alley as it will be with many of the Wycombe faithful. Cumming's book is part travelogue, part love letter to the mighty Wanderers and many a happy memory is stirred amongst the 400+ pages.

After several failed attempts at a career, not helped by the fact he'd prefer to play for Wycombe or travel the world like many of us, local lad James starts out on a steady if boring career that unfortunately heads the same way as many local businesses at that time. With an unexpectedly generous redundancy windfall James and girlfriend Cathy decide to put real life on hold for a while and head out on the road. Some packing and a few goodbyes later there is just time for the last couple of games at Adams Park and what would turn out to be the start of our famous FA cup run, not that they would see most of it...

This adventure novel starts back at Loakes Park with games he attended growing up instilling his love for the game and identifying along the way some all too familiar characters: youngsters who may have had a few too many beverages on occasion, older fans who should know better, and some, still older who seem at times to know it all. On his travels we also meet unimpressed fans of "big clubs", football bores and long suffering partners, bemused tourists and annoyed locals.

The book tells the story of the cup run from two angles. The main story is told from afar, taking in breath-taking vistas, dream locations and wonders of the world, but initially only catching results via two day old newspapers and brief exchanges with home. Filling in the colour and excitement of the time is left to mates at home, at the game or mostly in the pub. Those supposedly left in the real world console themselves with the unimaginable journey that Lawrie, Brownie and the boys were on. Does anyone who was there care to relive Wimbledon away? I certainly did.

To Cathy's amusement and sometimes general annoyance James is not the world's most worldly traveller, providing the opportunity for some fun scrapes along the way. He also won't shut up about the football. Its great fun and will have you searching for cheap flights, or renewing your season ticket, or both.

This was always going to be a hit amongst the Chairboys following and doesn't disappoint but there is something for everyone here. How can you not like a story that includes volcanos, terracotta soldiers and Andy Rammell?

Perfect for a long away trip.

IS OUR FAMILY CLUB PRICING OUT FAMILIES?

This summer, I decided to purchase my 22nd consecutive Wycombe Wanderers season ticket. I've been coming to Adams Park since 1992 and have grown from a young fan into an adult with two young children, whom I am hoping will also become Chairboys fanatics. Last season, I brought my then four-year-old daughter to her first game. It was against Dagenham and when Aaron Pierre was famously celebrating a last minute equaliser with a ballboy, I was lofting my child into the air in what I will forever cherish as a special moment. She wasn't too sure what was going on and had been a little unsure during the game itself, but opted to come again. She came to three more matches last season and really started to enjoy it, to the point where she even wrote about the victory over Exeter for her homework (it was like the match reports in this fanzine, only with better spelling).

I opted, therefore, to get her a season ticket. But there was a problem. I sit, along with a friend with similarly aged children, in the upper tier with a group of friends who don't have kids. We like the view and want to enjoy football both with our friends and, now, our children. Yet while a season ticket for under 7's is free in the Family Stand, anywhere else in the ground they are an eye-watering £162 - and that was with the early bird discount of £29. Being parents of young children, money is at a premium and having to fork out an additional £162 on top of £308 for our own tickets is simply unaffordable, especially when you consider that young children are not going to come to every game (Tuesday evenings being the obvious example).

So we could just move to the Family Stand, right? Yep, that was an option, but but one that would result in us buying cheaper season tickets ourselves (so the club would be losing out) and we wouldn't be sitting in the seats we wanted or with the people we wanted to sit with.

We therefore approached the club, asking if there was any way we could get free tickets for our children in the upper tier. No, no and no were the answers. A policy is a policy, we have to set a precedent, the prices have already been advertised etc. etc. This frustrated us – we are diehard fans and were only asking for a small favour that we saw as a benefit to both ourselves and the club. None of the options suited us, but in the end I decided to purchase my

usual seat and get a kids ticket in the lower tier. This means that whenever my child comes along I'll have to transfer my seat and sit away from the friends whom I attend games with. Hassle for me, extra work for the ticket office staff and a lesser match day experience.

Of course there is no reason that I should have been given a free ticket – if other parents in the same position had paid full price for an under 7's ticket in the upper tier it wouldn't be fair for me to pay nothing. And then there is the reason that kids aren't free in the upper tier – they want the upper tier to be more premium seats and encourage families to use the Family Stand.

Fair enough, but let's get some perspective – we're always billed as a family club, so why should kids be discouraged from anywhere? They can't go in the terrace (understandably) or behind the other goal and are priced out of two of the three remaining stands. A quick glance up the road to League One Oxford United reveals that they too allow free entry for kids in their Family Stand...and charge just £23 for a season ticket anywhere else in the ground. One stand less, but more options of where you can take your young kids and it's £139 cheaper. In the league above ours.

This really is the sort of policy that our club needs to adopt for next season. You may think I am in this for my own reasons and you'd be right of course, but this could also be beneficial to the club. I'd happily pay £23 (or even a little more) for a child's ticket in the upper tier – this would still be encouraging use of the family stand while at the same time accommodating for 'crossover' markets (I'm now part of both the family market and individuals who want to watch the games with friends) and it could potentially generate more cash. Parents previously put off by the high-priced child's tickets in the upper tier may decide to buy one at a more reasonable price and subsequently spend a little more on their own ticket.

It's a policy that needs some serious consideration and hopefully amending for next season, or the more casual supporting families may just drive up the road to the Stade de Three Sides.

Family Guy

TOP FIVE: O'Neill's Greatest Hits

By Rich Judges

Watching the game at Penn & Tylers Green FC, we were honored to see Penn & Tylers Legends vs Wycombe Legends, with the full-time result being a hard fought 3-2 win to Wycombe. The spectators got to see those Wycombe legends play together for possibly the last time.

For me, it sparked memories of yesteryear, back when Wycombe finally bridged the gap and moved from the amateur game into the Football League.

I was lucky enough to witness the Martin O'Neill era first hand and there were many wonderful performances and high points to choose from, but these five stand out in particular.

1. Wycombe vs Preston North End – Division Three Play-Off Final.

Wembley Stadium, 28th May 1994

Wycombe were aiming for their third Wembley victory since 1990 and as it turned out, it was a day to be remembered for the players, staff and fans alike.

The newly built home for the Wanderers, Adams Park, had seen crowds swell thanks to recent successes, rising from an average attendance of 1,200 when O'Neill took over in 1990, to over 6,000 in 1994. Wembley was magnificent on a fine summer's day when Wycombe arrived to challenge Preston North End for the Play-Off Final. Over 40,000 fans from both sides packed into the stadium, with fans bringing their friends and family to roar the teams on.

Wycombe dominated the first 20 minutes of the game, but couldn't find the net. Steve Thompson and Steve Guppy both missed chances before the unthinkable happened and Preston scored on 32 minutes. A throw in from the right was crossed in by Tony Ellis and thumped past Paul Hyde with a spectacular overhead kick from Ian Bryson. The Preston fans were still busy celebrating when, just a few minutes later, Glyn Creaser knocked the ball up-field to Simon Garner, who played in Thompson down the left wing. Thompson found an inch of space and tucked the ball past Steve Woods and into the Preston net.

Preston pressured Wycombe with a series of corners and throw-ins towards the break and eventually re-took the lead, Ellis again the provider as Paul Raynor thumped an un-stoppable shot past Hyde. Wycombe were in shock and had the half-time break to sit and face their fears of missing out on promotion.

However, the Chairboys fans had to wait just two minutes into the second half before hopes of an upset were alive and well again, when Titterton hit a

thundering ball out from defence, which Garner deftly controlled before unleashing a left-footed volley past Woods from the left side of the penalty area. Garner, once again, played a part in Wycombe's third goal. Guppy picked the ball up on the left wing and found Thompson, who moved the ball swiftly to Garner in a central position. Without looking up, Garner played a precise ball to Dave Carroll and he converted with ease past the stranded Preston keeper.

The Wanderers fans knew that promotion was within their grasp, however Preston were always likely to make something happen, so a nervous tension descended on the stadium.

Preston swarmed forward and forced a goalmouth scramble on the 72nd minute, but the ball was cleared by Jason Cousins forward to Carroll on the right wing. He picked the ball up in his own half and then went on a trademark mazy run forward. He had options to either side, but Carroll carried on towards the goal. He cut back in on his right foot and hit a shot which clipped the left hand post and nestled in the back of the net. The Wycombe following went into joyous pandemonium and celebrations continued as both sets of fans realised that the game was as good as over.

Garner had a 50 yard chipped effort unfairly ruled out for offside late on in the game, but it couldn't spoil the day and Wycombe got their reward.

"When you consider we are a Third Division side with eight of the team which won promotion and three free transfers thrown in, I really think we were absolutely class" said Martin O'Neill afterwards.

Final score: Wycombe 4 – Preston 2

2. Carlisle United vs Wycombe – Football League Division Three.

Brunton Park, 14th August 1993

With Wycombe making their Football League debut, Blues fans were not dealt the easiest of away matches to attend, as Carlisle were first up for the Wanderers. 7,752 turned up at Brunton Park, swelled by over 1,500 Wycombe fans hoping for a good start in the new league.

Steve Thompson had the honour of being the first Wanderer ever to kick a ball in the Football League as he kicked off in the bright Cumbrian sun, but Wycombe's nerves showed and it was the hosts who took the lead when George Oghani's cross was slotted in at the far post by Rod Thomas.

Resilience had proved to be Wycombe's foundation in the Conference and so it continued to be in Division Three - an equaliser eventually coming as Wycombe launched a counter-attack. Dave Carroll delivered a peach of a ball into the box and Keith Scott's header ricocheted back off the crossbar. The ball was only

partially cleared and Carlisle defender Chris Curran headed past his own keeper to become the first player to score a goal for Wycombe in the Football League.

The goal boosted Wycombe's morale and they left the pitch at half-time in good spirits. The Blues started the second period with far more confidence, but unfortunately lost Duncan Horton, who was injured whilst challenging Darren Edmunson and had to be replaced by Simon Hutchinson. Martin O'Neill tweaked the formation to suit the change and in the 76th minute Jason Cousins' throw-in from the right was flicked across the face of goal by Carroll, with Steve Guppy at the far post to guide the ball into the net. 'Gupps' ran to where the Wycombe fans were on the far side of the pitch to celebrate.

However, Wycombe were denied a famous victory when, with eight minutes remaining, a Carlisle corner was cleverly back-heeled by Thomas, finding Curran on the edge of the Wycombe area, from where he drove the ball past the flailing Paul Hyde.

Speaking after the game Martin O'Neill said "Before the game I would have settled for not being beaten, but when we've got 2-1 in front I'm a bit disappointed we've conceded the goal - it doesn't matter now I suppose - we're off the mark." He then added; "If that's the sort of thing we're in for in this league, then it's going to be hard for us."

Final Score: Carlisle 2 - Wycombe 2

3. Wycombe vs Runcorn – FA Trophy Final.

Wembley Stadium, 9th May 1993

This game was the prelude to Wycombe's entrance to the Football League, a show-case encounter which saw 30,000 fans at Wembley to watch Wycombe vs Runcorn.

The Wycombe players had to wait until the morning of the game to find out if they had made the final 13. Dennis Greene and Anton Vircavs were left out, as was local hero Mark West. Steve Thompson overcame an injury scare to start up front with Keith Scott.

Nerves on the pitch were quickly settled as Wycombe broke the deadlock after just two minutes. A foul on Scott on the left hand edge of the penalty area gave Jason Cousins a free-kick opportunity and he duly delivered with a low ball past the Runcorn wall into the far corner of the net. A celebration that has entered Wycombe folklore was to follow, as Cousins rushed over to the Wycombe fans, who roared their appreciation, before joining Scott in a bizarre dancing ritual.

Wanderers then gave themselves a two goal cushion on the 20 minute mark. Thompson raced clear on the left flank before being brought down by Graham

Hill. Carroll swung the subsequent free-kick in towards the near post and Andy Kerr stooped to head home from six yards. Once again the Wycombe faithful burst into mad celebrations.

Runcorn pulled a goal back soon after, with Steve Shaughnessy scoring four minutes before the break. Moments later, Scott might have restored Wycombe's two goal lead had his shot taken a kinder deflection off the crossbar, but at the break the tie was finely balanced at 2-1.

After the restart, Ken McKenna came close to levelling, but a good save from Paul Hyde kept his effort at bay. As the game approached the hour mark, it was Guppy who made Wycombe's third goal when his corner was nodded in by Thompson on the 59th minute, making it 3-1 and leaving the Wanderers firmly in control. O'Neill shuffled his deck after Thompson's goal, bringing on Hakan Hayrettin to replace Simon Hutchinson, thereby allowing Dave Carroll to move out to his favoured wide position.

Runcorn's final chance to breach the Wycombe goal came in the 80th minute, when McKenna again hit a pummeling shot at Hyde, who did especially well to claw the ball away. The clearance sparked a claim from McKenna that the ball had crossed the line, but his appeals were laughed away.

Scott and Thompson then played a neat exchange to release Cousins for a rare run forward. He pushed the ball out wide to Carroll who looped a ball into the box towards the far post. Runcorn goalkeeper Arthur Williams fluffed his catch and directed the ball into the far corner of the net. Carroll duly claimed the goal and the Wycombe bench roared with celebration. The final whistle blew and in a fitting tribute to injured skipper Glyn Creaser, it was him who was chosen to climb the Wembley steps and lift the trophy.

Final Score: Wycombe 4 – Runcorn 1

4. Wycombe vs West Bromwich Albion – FA Cup 2nd Round Replay.

The Hawthorns, 15th December 1992

The first game between these two sides had ended in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Adams Park. Sky TV had televised the game and were again present to broadcast the replay, with supporters and impartial viewers keen to see more of the same enthralling play.

Nearly 5,000 Wycombe fans swelled the crowd at the home of the Baggies to see if the Chairboys could earn a choice third-round tie with West Ham United. It was all the more poignant for ex-Baggies trainee Andy Kerr, who came back into the side after serving a suspension. Wycombe's chances were improved with the news that West Brom were to be without future Chairboys striker Simon Garner through injury.

Manager O'Neill chose to play a five-man midfield, with Steve Thompson performing particularly well in the first half - threading a pass through to Keith Scott, who bent a right-footed volley against the upright on 28 minutes. At the other end, Paul Hyde's goal was tested by Gary Strodder, who headed powerfully against the underside of the crossbar.

After a goalless first half, the game restarted with Wycombe attacking towards their own fans and there was a feeling amongst Chairboys support that their team could actually win this. Thompson was again a real threat to West Brom's goal, with a header from a Steve Guppy free-kick cleared off the line on the 49 minute mark.

The Baggies then started to show real initiative pressing forward and with just eight minutes remaining they sealed the win when Guppy lost possession close to his own box and Bob Taylor snuck in and whipped a low shot past the outstretched Hyde.

Wycombe pushed for an equaliser and the best chance was missed when substitute Simon Hutchinson pushed the ball past two men on the right wing and crossed well to the near post. Scott flicked the ball on and Guppy was inches away from rectifying his mistake. It was agony as the final whistle blew moments later.

The 17,460 crowd gave Wycombe a standing ovation, realising that they had seen a special game, where a Football League team was matched all the way by a Conference side. Plaudits came in from an array of national pundits for Wycombe's fine performance.

Martin O'Neill said in an interview after the match: "After all my years in football, I'm still surprised to lose any game in which my team has played so well. I was even thinking ahead to how we'd play West Ham and then we ruined it all by giving away a bad goal." He went on to say: "I still feel the hardest thing for us to do is getting out of the Vauxhall Conference. It's the toughest thing the club will ever have to do in its history".

Final Score: West Brom 1 Wycombe 0

5. Fulham vs Wycombe – Autoglass Trophy Southern Area Semi-Final

Craven Cottage, 8th February 1994

Wycombe were in their debut season in the Football League and were making good progress in the Autoglass Trophy, reaching the Southern Area Semi-Final. Wanderers had already claimed the scalps of Brentford and Cardiff City, before a freak goal from Steve Guppy saw off bitter rivals Colchester United at Layer Road. Wycombe now travelled to their next opponents Fulham, with around

2,000 Blues fans making the trip to West London for a memorable night of football.

Fulham opened the scoring within the first minute when Gary Brazil volleyed home from 15 yards after a corner. Wycombe almost drew level eight minutes later through Guppy, but Fulham's keeper Jim Stannard blocked well. Fulham had further chances to extend their lead, with Martin Pike firing wide before Peter Baah hit a shot which went inches over Paul Hyde's goal. Stannard saved again from a Keith Ryan header minutes later, before Terry Evans went down injured after a heavy tackle from a Fulham player.

After Evans went off, Jason Cousins took the captain's armband, but again Wycombe had to make a change due to an injury when Duncan Horton limped off at half-time, with Tim Langford coming on. Martin O'Neill changed the formation and on the 54th minute debutant Simon Garner had a snap shot saved before flashing another effort just wide of the post.

Wycombe were dominating the game and their pressure eventually paid off in the 62nd minute, when Langford's run from a Hyde clearance led to a one-on-one with Stannard, with Langford easing the ball into the net. Garner again went close in the dying minutes before the referee called the end of the 90 minutes.

Wanderers picked up where they left off in extra-time, as a brilliant interchange between Thompson and Guppy saw the ball played out to Langford, who laid it off to Carroll only for his shot to skim the crossbar. On 62 minutes Guppy was again involved when his ball in from the left was picked up by Langford and this time he thumped his shot home from twenty yards to give Wycombe the lead. Fulham came back into the game with a vengeance and only a Cousins clearance was enough to deflect Jeff Eckhardt's effort. It was end-to-end play and Wycombe had a chance of their own effort through Garner, but Fulham's Terry Angus stopped the ball on the line. With only six minutes remaining, Fulham finally got their equaliser courtesy of Brazil. The match was going to be settled by penalties.

Nervous tension filled the ground. Wycombe were first to take and Langford converted, before Hyde pulled off heroics to save Pike's spot kick. Kerr, Brazil, Carroll and Tierling all then scored their penalties to make the score 3-2 in Wycombe's favour. It was down to Simon Stapleton who chose a short-run up for his kick and Stannard saved well, but Hyde spared Stapleton's blushes when he saved Duncan Jupp's effort. Cousins was to take the last kick. He strode up and placed the ball to Stannard's right, leaving the goalkeeper no chance. Cousins lapped up the glory before being mobbed by team-mates and staff who then turned to pay tribute to the Blues fans on the Putney Terrace.

Final score: Wycombe 2 – Fulham 2 (AET – Wycombe win 4-2 on penalties)

'It's that little souvenir, of a terrible year' - The story of the Blues.

BARNET (H)

League Two, Saturday 16th April

Att: 3,715

BLUES 1 (Hayes 58) BEES 1 (Yiadom 71)

Verdict: A scrappy game, but considering the injury crisis that was to be expected. There was some criticism of Ainsworth after this for us not playing like Barcelona which would be fair enough were it not for the fact that there were only eleven fit footballers contracted to Wycombe Wanderers at the start of the day.

Barnet were the better side first half and caused us problems from set pieces as we failed to get any real foothold in the final third. We rallied in the final few minutes before the break and in the second half managed to grab the lifeline Allsop handed us with an impressive double save.

The goal was scrappy but you felt after that, and given Barnet missed plenty of chances, we would see the game out and maybe even grab that elusive second goal. It was therefore frustrating to concede such a soft goal from our point of view and despite our huffing and puffing, we couldn't get the winner which, to be fair, we probably didn't deserve.

Ref Watch: G Ward - Got in the way a few times but largely ok.

Magic Moment: Trawling through the plethora of negative comments on the various message boards that had us preparing for our imminent relegation to non-league...before realising we were still just outside the play-offs.

YEOVIL TOWN (H)

League Two, Tuesday 19th April

Att: 2,812

BLUES 0 GLOVERS 0

Verdict: Awful first half, improved second half but a failure to find a cutting edge. No, this is not a copy and paste of previous match reports.

It was a frustrating evening all told, as even when we did turn up in the second half, the visiting keeper and defenders kept us at bay. That said, while there were a lot of naysayers afterwards, it's worth noting that, loanees aside, we only had 12 fit players at the start of the evening, which was at least an improvement on Saturday's 11.

Yet for all the small budgets, injuries, squad size and what have you, you have to ask why do the defenders and midfielders, when they have time on the ball, play it long to strikers with two or three defenders on them. A bit of variety surely? Try something different now and then? This was perhaps the most frustrating thing about tonight and our style of play in general at times.

Ref Watch: L Collins - Par for the course.

Magic Moment: The humour from behind the goal. "We want a goal" and "Gozie's gonna score" added smiles to the place.

PORTSMOUTH (A)
League Two, Saturday 23rd April
Att: 16,187

POMPEY 2 (*Roberts 37, Chaplin 67*) **BLUES 1** (*Jombati 73*)

Verdict: Any faint hopes of sneaking into the playoffs were finally extinguished as we slipped to defeat on the South Coast. A small squad with tired players hasn't helped our cause in a run in that's seen us fail to win any of our last six matches, but at least in this game we saw a more spirited display than we had become used to of late, the biggest positive being the outstanding performance of Danny Rowe, who showed great vision and composure in central midfield.

Wycombe were the better side for the first and last 25 minutes but Pompey were totally dominant in the 40 minutes in between. At first we pressed well and made life very difficult for Pompey, but still that cutting edge remains frustratingly elusive. Portsmouth gradually grew into the game and made us pay for our lack of incisiveness. However, Sido's delightful, curling free-kick gave us hope and we pressed for an equalizer, Southampton loanee McCarthy being denied on the goal line not once but twice, first when his thunderbolt from the edge of the box was hacked clear, then when his shot was blocked by a scrambling defender. Ultimately though Wycombe, just like this season, have run out of steam.

Ref Watch: D Whitehouse – Ok, although Bean was perhaps lucky to only receive a yellow for a high and late challenge on Doyle.

Magic Moment: Sido's delicious free-kick.

ACCRINGTON STANLEY (H)
League Two, Saturday 30th April
Att: 4,048

BLUES 0 STANLEY 1 (*Hughes 77*)

Verdict: Same old, same old. Poor first half, improved second, lack of cutting edge. This was an average game - not dreadful, but the visitors were nervy and we didn't take advantage.

Siegrist looked good in goal but why didn't Ainsworth really mix it up? With nothing to play for, why not give Kretschmar a start, Liburd a full game or Sellers for that matter? The injuries have made things very limited but there was some scope for change and with nothing to play for it was a little baffling.

Ref Watch: M Bull - Average.

Magic Moment: Hayes' little moment of skill and shot that nearly resulted in a wonder goal.

OXFORD UNITED (A)
League Two, Saturday 7th May
Att: 11,815

PNL 3 (*Dunkley 54, Maguire (pen) 72, O'Dowda 90+1*) **BLUES 0**

Verdict: Don't want to talk about it.

The Great, The Good, The Bad, The Ugly.

The Wycombe squad's highlights and lowlights of 2015/2016.

MATT INGRAM

The Great: His magnificent, one-handed wonder save from Neil Collins away at Mansfield.

The Good: Finally getting to play in a big game for us in the FA Cup replay at Aston Villa.

The Bad: Conceding a goal to fellow keeper Jesse Joronen in the 2-1 defeat at Stevenage.

The Ugly: His red card against Morecambe that ruled him out of the big game against Villa.

SIDO JOMBATI

The Great: His brilliant strike at Halifax. A fantastic way to score his first Wycombe goal.

The Good: His audacious back-heel clearance in his own six-yard box at Plymouth.

The Bad: After missing two games in December, he never fully regained his place in 2016.

The Ugly: His comical mix-up which led to Simpson's goal in the draw away at Leyton Orient.

JOE JACOBSON

The Great: Keeping his head to calmly dispatch the equalising penalty against Villa.

The Good: His two excellent assists in the 2-1 home win over local rivals Oxford United.

The Bad: His penalty miss in the 1-1 draw away at Carlisle United.

The Ugly: The horrific head wound he suffered at Barnet. Pretty sure I could see his brain.

STEPHEN MCGINN

The Great: His stunning 'top bin' winner against Exeter City.

The Good: Finishing the season strongly with a string of fine midfield displays.

The Bad: A slow start to the season included an abysmal performance v Northampton.

The Ugly: Not having anyone to support at Euro 2016.

ANTHONY STEWART

The Great: His goal, clean sheet and man of the match display on the first day win vs York.

The Good: Despite the result, he put in a decent showing in the away loss to Northampton.

The Bad: Being comprehensively outmuscled by Lyle Taylor in the limp defeat to Wimbledon

The Ugly: His unfortunate own goal at Cambridge United that proved to be the winner.

AARON PIERRE

The Great: Making his Grenada debut v Haiti - becoming Wycombe's 7th full international.

The Good: His late equaliser v Dagenham and celebrations with the ball boy that went viral.

The Bad: Conceding the penalty that led to Wimbledon's winner at Adams Park.

The Ugly: Being dropped to the bench for the home defeat to Newport after turning up late.

GARRY THOMPSON

The Great: His two goal, match-winning performance away at Barnet.

The Good: Scoring his 100th career goal with a good finish in the 2-2 draw with Portsmouth.

The Bad: His woeful penalty miss in the home win over Cambridge United.

The Ugly: His stupid, needless red card away at Dagenham and Redbridge.

MARCUS BEAN

The Great: A battling display as he led the fightback in the 1-1 draw at home to Carlisle.

The Good: The solid midfield partnership he formed with O’Nien during the early season.

The Bad: Getting his marching orders in the 1-1 draw at Carlisle.

The Ugly: Getting his dreadlocks yanked by Morecambe’s Ellison can’t have been much fun.

PAUL HAYES

The Great: Coming back from injury to score a superb last minute equaliser versus Carlisle.

The Good: His cool finish to put us ahead in the FA Cup victory over Millwall.

The Bad: A disappointing, stop-start season that saw him struggle with niggly injuries.

The Ugly: Finishing the season with just 5 goals, after hitting 15 the previous campaign.

MATT BLOOMFIELD

The Great: His bravery and commitment to force home our equaliser away at York...

The Good: ...And then playing on through the pain barrier – what a hero!

The Bad: Having his goal at Leyton Orient pinched by Gozie Ugwu.

The Ugly: The season-ending broken arm he suffered during his York heroics.

SAM WOOD

The Great: His inch perfect cross to set up Holloway’s equalising goal against Notts County.

The Good: In a difficult season, his MOTM display against Crawley, capped with a late goal.

The Bad: ...His shocking miss a few moments before that.

The Ugly: A really poor season for a usually dependable player. Hopefully just a blip.

JASON BANTON

The Great: Scoring his first Wycombe goal against former club Plymouth.

The Good: Showing glimpses of his attacking ability in the build up to our penalty at Barnet.

The Bad: Failing to make an impact and being loaned out to Hartlepool in October...

The Ugly: ...And in the end even they didn’t want him.

BARRY RICHARDSON

The Great: His legendary clean sheet heroics in the away win at Plymouth Argyle.

The Good: At 46, setting an unlikely-to-be-beaten record for oldest ever Wycombe player.

The Bad: How horrified we all felt when we saw him getting ready to come on.

The Ugly: How stiff he must have felt the next day.

RYAN SELLERS

The Great: Making his pro debut on the opening day of the season against York City.

The Good: A good game in the home win v Mansfield after coming on for the injured Wood.

The Bad: Never really getting a decent go on the left wing, despite Wood’s poor season.

The Ugly: Being knocked unconscious just 7 minutes after coming on as a sub at Exeter.

AARON AMADI-HOLLOWAY

The Great: His thumping finish to put us 2-0 up in the away win at Mansfield Town.

The Good: Changing the game after coming on at Yeovil and setting up O’Nien’s winner.

The Bad: Despite his clear potential, playing just 29 times before being loaned to Oldham.

The Ugly: His 2-goal display for Oldham v Rochdale as our own forwards struggled v Carlisle.

MAX KRETZSCHMAR

The Great: Showing his potential with a lively attacking display in the home win v Crawley.

The Good: His tremendous strike to put us 3-0 up at Halifax.

The Bad: Playing in every role except his preferred one, including an ill-fated spell up front.

The Ugly: Departing Adams Park after nine years at the club. The best of luck to him.

DANNY ROWE

The Great: A superb midfield display away at Portsmouth.

The Good: Coming on to help close the game down as we held on to see off Oxford 2-1.

The Bad: Being shipped out to Conference side Barrow, where he was promptly injured.

The Ugly: Being completely ravaged in defence in the miserable 3-0 defeat away at Rovers.

MICHAEL HARRIMAN

The Great: His excellent half-volley winner at home against Cambridge United.

The Good: His great footwork before hitting the winner at home against Mansfield.

The Bad: His wasteful miss in the opening 15 minutes of the home defeat to Luton.

The Ugly: Being booked by the over-zealous ref for his celebrations after the Mansfield goal.

LUKE O'NIEN

The Great: The news that he'd signed a three-year contract extension. Wonderful stuff.

The Good: His late headed winner in the home victory over Bristol Rovers.

The Bad: Him and Banton somehow tackling each other in the home win over Hartlepool.

The Ugly: Sido smashing the ball into his face at point blank range in the Millwall game.

ALEX LYNCH

The Great: A solid display in the big FA Cup game at home to Aston Villa.

The Good: Greatly impressing in the mid-season friendly game at home to Leeds.

The Bad: The injury at Plymouth that ended his season, just when he had got his chance.

The Ugly: Released in the summer, he must wonder what might have been if he'd stayed fit.

JASON McCARTHEY

The Great: His derby day winner against the Plucky Non Leaguers.

The Good: Picking up a richly deserved Player of the Month nomination for December.

The Bad: Twice being denied a dream goal at Fratton Park, with shots cleared off the line.

The Ugly: The foul on him that went unnoticed before Wimbledon's opener in their 2-1 win.

GOZIE UGWU

The Great: His scrambled early goal away at Plymouth that proved to be the winner.

The Good: His clever flick-on for Cowan-Hall that nearly got us a goal in the defeat to Luton.

The Bad: Managing just two scrappy goals in 32 appearances.

The Ugly: The moment someone on the internet came up with the nickname 'Dozy Ugwu'.

PARIS COWAN-HALL

The Great: Just seeing him back in a Wycombe shirt and bringing some edge to our attack.

The Good: His looping, headed winner away at Dagenham and Redbridge.

The Bad: The ankle injury after just five games that brought his season to a premature end.

The Ugly: Playing against us for Bristol Rovers.

JERMAINE UDUMAGA

The Great: His sublime defence-splitting pass to help set up Wood's goal against Crawley.

The Good: ...And then accidentally tripping up the ref a few moments later.

The Bad: Despite showing some ability, making just 4 sub appearances during his loan spell.

The Ugly: His Blues career being so brief that most of us didn't bother learning his surname.

JERELL SELLARS

The Great: A promising, lively debut coming off the bench against Mansfield.

The Good: His sparkling display was the only bright point in the drab 0-0 draw with Yeovil.

The Bad: The crossbar denying him a stunning debut goal in the home win over the Stags.

The Ugly: Having to go back to Villa must have been pretty depressing...

RYAN ALLSOP

The Great: His stunning stoppage-time save from Haydn Hollis away at Notts County.

The Good: His clean sheet against Yeovil, his 5th in 16 games and a record 18th of the season.

The Bad: Being beaten by Cameron McGeehan's long range winner on his debut v Luton.

The Ugly: Every time he wore that purple kit - made me want to kick my own eyes out.

ROWAN LIBURD

The Great: A lively debut (despite the awful playing surface) away at Newport County.

The Good: A good performance alongside Thompson and Hayes in the win over Stevenage.

The Bad: Being denied a debut goal by the Newport County woodwork.

The Ugly: After a promising start, seeming to get worse and worse as the season went on.

JANOI DONACIEN

The Great: Erm...well he's from St. Lucia. So...y'know...that sounds nice.

The Good: Putting in a better showing in his second (and last) game v Hartlepool.

The Bad: His poor debut against Dagenham, losing McClure for the Daggers' early goal.

The Ugly: Returning to parent club Aston Villa after just two underwhelming performances.

BENJAMIN SIEGRIST

The Great: His fine debut performance in the home defeat to Accrington Stanley.

The Good: The last ditch clearance he made in that game whilst sat on his backside.

The Bad: Despite his good showing v Accrington, he was benched for the following game.

The Ugly: Opting to sign for Liechtenstein outfit FC Vaduz, instead of us.

GARETH AINSWORTH

The Great: The way his team played against Premier League Aston Villa. More of this please!

The Good: Picking up Manager of the Month nominations for August and December.

The Bad: Being publicly criticised by 'best mate' Neil Ardley for our tactics at Kingsmeadow.

The Ugly: Refusing to shake Derek Adams' hand in the ugly scenes after our win v Plymouth.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Football League blamed for England's Euro 2016 failure

As the post mortem into England's abysmal showing at Euro 2016 continues, it has now been discovered that it was in fact the fault of England's lower league clubs that Hodgson's millionaire Premier League stars couldn't beat a team managed by a dentist, increasing calls to allow Premiership B Teams to play in the Football League, to ensure that England win everything from now on.

"It's all their fault we lost to Iceland," explained an FA humanoid, "we would have definitely beaten them and probably gone on to win the tournament if only our elite youngsters were allowed to hone their skills in games against Barnet and Newport County. Until we are allowed to play B Teams filled with kids from France, Spain and Germany, we will never produce a national side capable of beating teams like France, Spain and Germany."

"With Premier League academies being permitted to enter the Football League Trophy – or the Pot Noodle Challenge Cup, as it is now known thanks to our new, exciting sponsorship deal, at least now the stars of tomorrow will finally get the chance to improve and develop, playing in competitive games against a weakened Carlisle United side in front of 83 people.

Because really, England will carry on playing the poor relation to teams like Germany, Brazil, Wales, Iceland, Gibraltar and the Solomon Islands, as long as stick-in-the-mud naysayers like Grimsby Town stop dragging their feet and start letting us do exactly what we want."

Kretzschmar released to save money on shirt printing

Wycombe Wanderers have revealed that attacking midfielder/winger/striker/fourth choice goalkeeper Max Kretzschmar was allowed to leave the club in order to save money on having his name printed on the back of his shirt.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth, barefoot and dressed in rags, told a press conference; "It costs something like 8p a letter and on top of that he had double figure shirt number. Every season we had to do a couple of home shirts, a couple of change shirts, a third choice shirt...he's a talented player, but the budget is tighter than Matt McClure's hamstrings. We had to let him go."

Ainsworth also admitted that this was the reason behind the departure of Aaron Amadi-Holloway. "People are claiming we fell out, but it was simply down to his name. It wasn't a problem the first season when he just had Holloway on the back, but then he wanted to double-barrel it. Way too expensive!"

Chairman Andrew Howard, wearing his older brother's hand-me-downs, and busily working his way through a roll of scratchcards with a 2p coin he'd borrowed from a reporter explained; "From now on we're only keeping players with short names; Wood, Rowe, O'Nien. That's why we gave Hayes a two year deal. Mate, can I keep this coin?"

“Wycombe cheat!” Say teams who cheat

AFC Wimbledon manager Neil Ardley has reiterated his claims that Wycombe Wanderers are a nasty, cynical side that play awful football, unlike his own nasty, cynical team, that play successful awful football.

“I’d be ashamed to see my lads play-act and time-waste like the Wycombe players did at Kingsmeadow,” Ardley explained, “as I’ve trained them to do it much more effectively than that. It was appalling behaviour, not at all convincing. My boys do it much better.”

Others have come forward to criticise Wycombe’s unsporting tactics. An Oxford United fan complained; “They are a very physical side who just hoof the ball long. It’s disgusting. They could learn a thing or two from Oxford, who have run up debts of over £8.5 million to help finance a team filled with players that other League Two sides could never afford, including us. That’s how the game should be played.”

Football fan wins argument on Twitter

A football fan has been widely praised after winning an online argument against a fan from another club.

The fan, known only by his twitter handle ‘@Archbishop_of_Banterbury’, claimed victory in the encounter, after successfully demonstrating to rival supporter ‘@Banty_McBantface’ that his opinion was the more correct, considered one, through articulate and at times quite witty use of the word ‘Looooool’, as well as the ‘crying with laughter’ and ‘fishing’ emojis.

After Mr McBantface had conceded defeat, Mr Banterbury underlined his dominance by tweeting “Delete” to him, before celebrating by urging his club to “Announce Pogba”.

Waddock ‘Struggling’ to sign Aldershot players

Gary Waddock has revealed that he is having great difficulty signing players for Aldershot from Aldershot. Having returned to the Recreation Ground in the summer, the former Wycombe boss had a long list of players he intended to bring to the Conference club only to realise that they already played for them.

‘It was confusing,’ Waddock told us, ‘I mean, I managed to easily sign Shots players for Wycombe and Oxford but it’s proving more difficult to convince them to move from one club to the same club’. Waddock was delighted to sign six members of the reserve team and four youth-teamers to bolster his first team squad but then discovered they were already under contract.

‘It’s really tough, I’m not sure what I’m going to do,’ he continued, ‘Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to call QPR’.

AWAY TRAVEL

Travel with WWISC to any Wanderers away game and enjoy the following;

Stop at a pub serving hot & cold food

Food pre-ordered on the coach to minimise waiting time

Sweepstake with a guaranteed cash prize for at least one traveller

Discounted prices for members, students, under-16's & senior citizens

Passenger insurance & match cancellation insurance

We Pick Up From:

Pick-up 1: Wycombe Train Station, High Wycombe Town Centre.

Pick-up 2: Wycombe Park & Ride by the Empire Cinema, (M40 J4).

Subject to demand, we are running coaches to:

<u>OPPONENTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STADIUM</u>	<u>LAST TIME</u>
Blackpool	Sat 20 th August	Bloomfield Road	L 2-3 (5,960)
Luton Town	Sat 3 rd September	Kenilworth Road	W 2-0 (9,676)
Portsmouth	Sat 10 th September	Fratton Park	L 1-2 (16,187)
Carlisle United	Sat 24 th September	Brunton Park	D 1-1 (4,532)
Yeovil Town	Sat 8 th October	Huish Park	W 1-0 (2,963)
Mansfield Town	Sat 15 th October	Field Mill	W 2-0 (3,156)
Doncaster Rovers	Sat 29 th October	Keepmoat Stadium	D 2-2* (3,308)

***Won 3-2 on penalties on our way to League Cup glory!**

To Book

Please either visit the WWISC stall on Hillbottom Road before home matches, or call Colin on **01494 536 270** (If you leave a message please remember to leave a name and number). Please do not call Colin's mobile to book. Please let us know if you need to cancel a seat. This frees up seats to allow others to travel to support the team and means we will not be waiting for you on the day. Failure to cancel may result in us not taking future bookings from you.

*****  Non-smoking coaches  *****

Big Fat Quiz of the Season Answers

1. Scored a spectacular own goal
2. Fulham
3. He was the ball boy who celebrated with Pierre after his last minute equaliser against Dagenham
4. AFC Wimbledon away
5. Plymouth
6. Gozie Ugwu
7. Alex Lynch
8. Rovers had three players away on international duty
9. Wanderers 0 Leeds 2
10. AFC Guiseley
11. BT Sport 2
12. Micah Richards
13. Score an equaliser
14. Barry Richardson
15. Try before you buy
16. Dave Winfield
17. Marcus Bean
18. Sido Jombati
19. Mansfield, Crawley, Yeovil, Exeter
20. Newport

How well did you do?

20 – Martin O'Neill

15-19 – Gareth Ainsworth

10-14 – Lawrie Sanchez

5-9 – Neil Smillie

4 or less – You know who, but we don't like to say his name...

Next Time...

The next edition of The Wanderer will be released on
Saturday 12th November (Wycombe Wanderers vs Morecambe)

This will be available from the WWISC stall on Hillbottom Road. It will be **free** to WWISC members and £1.50 to everyone else.

If you have any articles, pictures, jokes, cartoons, anecdotes or points of view that you would like to air in these pages, please e-mail them to:

wanderer@wwisc.co.uk

The deadline for submissions is **6pm - Sunday 30th October**.

The Wanderer – By the fans, for the fans



Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club

Members of the Football Supporters' Federation

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